

Western Opera Graduate Class Outline 2025-2026

This class outline refers to Western University, Don Wright Faculty of Music, graduate courses: Music 9546

Mandatory Course Information

Enrolment Restrictions

Enrolment in this course is restricted to graduate students in Music, as well as any student who has obtained special permission from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf Note especially that plagiarism is a major scholastic offence. Students are expected to write all assignments in their own words. If you take an idea from another author, you must acknowledge this by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Health and Wellness Services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support at <https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Accessible Education Western (AEW)

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

NA

Electronic Devices in Classrooms:

Electronic devices of any sort are allowed for instructional purposes only. The in-class use of electronic devices (other than for instructor-approved in-class use) is expressly prohibited. Students found guilty of disrupting the class with electronic devices may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

1. Course Description

This course addresses the performing and technical aspects of opera production, including musical and dramatic interpretation, stage movement, stagecraft, lighting, scene construction, make-up, and costumes. The Opera Workshop follows the official calendar; however, additional rehearsal times are required in preparation for performances. Rehearsals and coaching sessions will also be scheduled outside of regular class times as indicated in the Master Schedule for the fall term leading up to the production. Music and dramatic coaching for the second-term repertoire will also begin in the first term.

Students unable to attend extra sessions due to class or exam conflicts must notify the instructor, Professor Luti, so that accommodations can be arranged. All rehearsal venues and times are provided in the Master Schedule, which is part of this document. Students must inform Professor Luti within one week of the posting of role assignments if they are unable to participate in any scheduled sessions.

Full availability for all assigned calls is essential. Permission to miss rehearsals for auditions will be granted only if arrangements are made with Prof Luti well in advance. Rehearsals during the two production weeks prior to performances are mandatory, and absences will generally not be permitted.

All members of UWOPERA will be required to participate in assigned activities, which may include principal or chorus roles, extra character assignments, stage management assistance, and technical production work (costumes, makeup, hair, stage crew, or production assistance). Graduate-level students (MMus and DMA) are expected to demonstrate leadership and mentorship within the workshop.

Casting is subject to change if a performer is deemed unprepared or unsuitable for their role. Such decisions will be made by the producer, head coach, stage director, and music director, in consultation with the student's voice teacher. Final casting for all productions will be posted as soon as possible following the September auditions.

2. Class/Production Participant Responsibilities and Outcomes

Opera is a collaborative art form that requires understanding of both performance and technical aspects. It is the student's responsibility to engage fully with all learning opportunities provided in UWOPERA. This experience will help participants develop time-management skills, repertoire knowledge, and interpretive ability to create and communicate characters effectively.

Students must arrive at coaching sessions with their music fully learned (notes, rhythms and text). Coaches will focus on style, diction, and memorization. Understudies are expected to attend all musical and staging rehearsals, as they may be called upon to perform at any time. Limited coaching and staging time will also be provided for understudies as the schedule permits.

All members must submit a 150-word biography and a professional headshot by October 2, 2025, for program and promotional purposes. Students who prefer not to have their information published must inform Professor Luti by this date.

Mandatory memorization deadlines are as follows:

- Così fan tutte – October 1, 2025
- Opera Gala – December 1, 2025
- Sweeney Todd – January 6, 2026

Students are expected to be punctual: arriving at least 10 minutes before staging rehearsals and 15 minutes before orchestra rehearsals. Costume fittings and makeup calls also require punctual attendance. Absences must be reported at least 12 hours in advance to the stage manager or coach. Illness, personal emergency, and religious observance are valid reasons for absence; other absences will be handled in accordance with Western University policy.

Coaching sessions missed without sufficient reason will not be rescheduled. Students must recognize that successful opera production depends on the collaboration and goodwill of many contributors. All members of UWOPERA are expected to uphold a collegial and professional environment, showing respect to faculty, staff, colleagues, and community partners.

Students with physical limitations affecting participation in movement or choreography must inform the producer as soon as possible. Documentation may be requested in accordance with university policy.

3. Grading Scheme

Final grades will be determined according to the following criteria:

- Punctual attendance at all scheduled calls – 10%
- Preparation of music (accuracy, knowledge, participation in coaching) – 25%
- Memorization of assigned repertoire by deadlines – 30%
- Participation in assigned performances – 30%
- Collegiality and contribution to ensemble work – 5%

Grading Scale:

A+ = 90–100%

A = 80–89%

B = 70–79%

C = 60–69%

D = 50–59%

F = 0–49%

4. Class Schedule Information

The attached Master Schedule (included as part of this document) is subject to change in emergency situations. Weekly schedules will be distributed via email (typically by Friday at noon) and posted on Brightspace. It is the student's responsibility to check the schedule regularly and remain informed about changes.

If a student cannot attend a coaching due to illness, the understudy will be assigned the rehearsal time. Missed coaching sessions will not be rescheduled except at the discretion of the faculty. Students must carefully review the Master Schedule immediately upon acceptance into the course to identify conflicts. Any conflicts must be communicated to the producer as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made.

All members of UWOPERA must be available for rehearsals during the two weeks preceding dress rehearsals and throughout the performance period. While not all students will be called to every rehearsal, they must remain available if needed. The Master Schedule outlines all required activities for the UWOPERA season.

Coordinator of Western Opera, Music Director and Head coach: **Simone Luti** sluti@uwo.ca
Office telephone 519=661-2111 x 85388 Office MB 307

Production Manager- **Bryan Hart**, bhart22@uwo.ca

Opera Teaching Assistants

Xinyao Luo (Sylvia) xluo245@uwo.ca

Erica Simone, esimone5@uwo.ca

Joshua Stanton, jstanto7@uwo.ca

Felix Stueckmann fstueckm@uwo.ca

Pianist Teaching Assistants

Ryan Baxter, rbaxte@uwo.ca

Yixuan Ran, yrans9@uwo.ca

Theodore Chow tchow72@uwo.ca

Zhenhua Ye, zye338@uwo.ca

Terrence Wu, twu342@uwo.ca

Director: Cossi fan tutte– Anthony Rodrigues

Music Director : Maestro Simone Luti

Director: Sweeney Todd – Jennifer Tarver

Music Director Opera Gala – Maestro Simone Luti

Director Opera Gala: Anthony Rodrigues

Coaching Staff: Head Coach: Simone Luti

Costume Design and/or Co-ordination – Jennie Wonnecott

Set Design – Joseph Recchia

Lighting Design: - Bryan Hart

Set Contruction: Musical Theatre Productions Team “Swamp Rats”

Theatre/Performance Location Coordinator: Louis D’Alton, Bryan Hart